(b) whether the Rubber Board has developed a successful technology for use of rubber on roads; and

(c) if so, whether surplus rubber would be utilised for this essential artery for road transport ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) A small quantity of 11,822 MTs of natural rubber was exported in 1991-92 and 1992-93 (till date) on account of a temporary surplus in the domestic market. Natural rubber is not normally exported as there is usually no surplus. As such, it will not be correct to say that exports of natural rubber have received a set-back.

(b) The Rubber Board has developed knowhow for rubberisation of roads. It has already undertaken rubberisation of roads on a commercial basis on the main roads in Kerala in collaboration with the Kerala Public Works Department.

(c) Some surplus rubber could be used for rubberisation of roads, if State and Central Public Works Departments come forward to adopt this system.

International Price Reimbursement Scheme

1643. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have refused budgetary assistance of Rs. 220 crore to fund the International Price Reimbursement Scheme;

(b) if so, whether it would hit the realisation of engineering exports target worth over $2 billion! and

(c) the alternative steps being taken/ proposed to be taken to achieve the target ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) to (c) There is no budget provision for International price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS) during 1992-93. International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS) is financed from the Engineering Goods Exports Assistance Fund (EGEAF) constituted by levy of cess on pig iron and specified categories of saleable steel produced by the Integrated Steel Plants. But during 1992-93, accruals to EGEAF from out of the cess will not be sufficient to fully meet the requirements of IPRS. Efforts to augment funds for IPRS are being made. The target for export for engineering goods for 1992-93 is likely to be achieved.

Payments of Exporters to Eastwhile USSR

1644. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the balance of trade between India and Russia for the year 1991-92 and during the first 6 months of 1992-93;

(b) whether it is a fact that lot of payments for Indian Exports to erstwhile USSR have not been received by our Exporters despite efforts by various agencies; and

(c) what effective steps Government are taking in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Presently disaggregated figures for India's trade with Russia are not maintained by